

THE TWENTY-THIRD

ANNUAL * REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY CONDITION OF BRIDGWATER

AND THE RURAL DISTRICTS

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

PREPARED BY

FRANCIS J. C. PARSONS, MEDICAL OFFICER.

BRIDGWATER:

PRINTED BY E. T. PAGE, FORE STREET

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TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT
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AND THE RURAL DISTRICTS
For the Year 1895.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

Numerically speaking, the vital Statistics of the year compare somewhat unfavourably with those of 1894. The Deaths are more in number, the Births less. It must not be forgotten, however, that the year 1894 was of a very exceptional character; so exceptional indeed, that during my long experience, never had I known the good health of the town so well maintained, nor diseases of a zymotic nature well nigh absent.

Passing from the numerical to the analytical value of these statistics—much may be gathered of real congratulation. There is a gradual and perceptible increase in the ages at which death occurred. Infantine mortality is little in excess of that registered in the Urban Population of Somerset—117·7, as against 115·3 per 1000 children born in 1894, and the zymotic death-rate 0·31 only.

In dealing with the statistics of the past year, it is impossible to avoid a certain sameness of expression common to the Annual Reports.

For the past three years the average death-rate in Bridgwater was 20·0; excluding the Infirmary and Workhouse, 16·3.

In the year 1895 the number of deaths registered was 272, as against 234 in 1894. This increase is mainly dependent on the large number of deaths that occurred in the Union Workhouse—42; the average being 29. The death-rate for the year is 21·5 per 1000 of the population, or 1·5 in excess of the average of the past three years.

Deducting 21 deaths that occurred in the Bridgwater Infirmary and 42 in the Union Workhouse, 209 deaths remain fairly belonging to the town, equal to an annual death-rate of 16·5, as against the average 16·3 for the past three years.

Thus, after careful comparison, the year 1895 may be considered one in which a large measure of health prevailed.

Year.	Population.	Deaths.	Rate per 1000.	District.
1893	12,600	260	20·6	<div> <div>{</div> <div> Western 100 Workhouse 28 Eastern 102 Infirmary 30 </div> </div>
1894	12,600	234	18·5	<div> <div>{</div> <div> Western 99 Workhouse 29 Eastern 89 Infirmary 17 </div> </div>
1895	12,600	272	21·5	<div> <div>{</div> <div> Western 113 Workhouse 42 Eastern 96 Infirmary 21 </div> </div>

The above table compares the mortality during the past three years between the Western and Eastern divisions of the town. At ages 65 and upwards 103 persons died, as against 84 during the preceding year.

Under 1 year of age, 49 deaths were registered, as against 40 in 1894, representing a death-rate of 11·7 for every 100 children born during the year, or 117·7 per 1000.

As regards the more general causes of death, 17 resulted from Phthisis, 35 from Bronchitis, Pneumonia or Pleurisy, 33 from Heart Disease, and 13 were occasioned by injuries of various characters; on these inquests were held. From the chief zymotic diseases only 4 deaths occurred—2 from Diphtheria, 1 from Whooping Cough, and 1 from Diarrhœa.

Such are the more important points of interest to be gathered from the Vital Statistics of the past year. The various Tables accompanying this Report will afford still further information.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, BRIDGWATER,

December 31st, 1895.

F. J. C. PARSONS, Esq., Medical Officer of Health.

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to submit the usual Report, dealing with the Sanitary work of the Urban District Council for the year ending 31st day of December, 1895, during which 432 notices have recieved attention, viz :

Miscellaneous Reports	...	...	221
Notices brought before the Health Committee	...	...	78
Defective Water Fittings	...	...	133
			<hr/> 432 <hr/>

The Sanitary Notices brought before the Health Committee dealt altogether with 107 defects, and may be summarized as follows :—

	Reported.	Abated.	In hand.
Defective Closets	30	28	2
„ Drains	15	15	
„ Condition of premises	16	13	3
„ Shuting and rain water pipe	14	11	3
Dirty condition of premises, including all accumulations	6	6	
Animals and birds kept in an insanitary condition	6	5	1
Overcrowding	3	3	
Defective slop troughs and gullies	15	13	2
Offensive trades	1	1	
Smoke nuisance	1	1	
			<hr/> 107 <hr/> 96 <hr/> 11 <hr/>

The cases of overcrowding brought before the Committee do not include anything like the number reported to the Sanitary Officers, but each complaint has had careful consideration, and the number scheduled represents those with any real basis of complaint, and these have all been abated.

It is a matter of regret that I have again to call attention to the state of the property in Gould's Buildings, Green Dragon Lane, & some in Honeysuckle Alley ; every effort has been made to induce the owners to put the buildings in some state of repair, unfortunately, without the slightest effect, and these properties should, in my opinion, be speedily dealt with under the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

COURTS.

I should like to see the matter of whitewashing the walls of courts, back additions, &c., more extensively carried out ; there is yet room for improvement, and I feel it my duty to warn occupiers generally against the pernicious practise of allowing ashes, house refuse, and other waste to accumulate on the premises There is no reason why this should occur, as each street is visited by the scavengers twice a week.

FOOD SUPPLY.

With regard to the food supply, 17 samples of various articles were taken and submitted to the Borough Analyst for examination, the whole of which were pronounced perfectly good and free from any taint of adulteration.

BAKE-HOUSES.

Examinations of the bake-houses of the town have taken place at various times, and on the whole they are found to be efficient and cleanly, and no other notice than for limewhiting was considered to be necessary, and that only in a few cases.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The most unsatisfactory item in this my Annual Report, is the state of the slaughter-houses throughout the town. They are all in private hands, situated in most confined areas, in the midst of densely populated districts, some in bad repair, and too often it is found that sufficient pains are not taken to keep them clean ; in many places there is not proper convenience for keeping animals. Further, the Bye Laws of the Borough with regard to removing offal in properly constructed and covered vessels, are not fully complied with, and, moreover, more care should be taken during the process of boiling offal, to avoid unpleasantness to the occupiers around and the general public.

FACTORIES.

Under the Factories Act, 1891 and 1895, inspections have been made of the several collar factories, and the various workrooms in the town. These two Acts have added considerably to the work and responsibility of the Sanitary Authority and Officers ; for not only have inspections to be made, but reports have to be prepared and submitted to the Local Government Board, and subsequent proceedings, if any, must then be taken by the Local Authority.

DRAINAGE.

I have again to draw your attention to the number of cases in which the old-time W.C. has been done away with and proper appliances substituted, and there is no doubt they do benefit the health of the occupiers of small houses in which the closets are immediately attached, if not actually within the premises.

In last year's report I mentioned that plans were waiting the sanction of the Local Government Board for the drainage of the Taunton Road district and Salmon Parade, and I much regret to say the Corporation are in precisely the same position now. The plans, specifications, and details have all been prepared, & an immediate start could have taken place at any time during the year, but the Local Government Board have thought fit to interpose another question that does not concern these two districts in the least, the result of such interposition being, that the development of the town has been seriously checked, and the highly unsatisfactory surface drainage of the Hamp District still continues.

The prevention of floods in the Taunton Road District has had the serious and continued consideration of the Town Council the whole year, and negotiations with the Great Western Railway Company have resulted in leave being obtained to insert four groups of iron pipes being carried through the Canal bank ; each of these groups consisting of three pipes 12 inches dia. A contract has been let to Mr. C. Bryer, junr., for the execution of the works, which will be commenced on the completion of the agreement between the Corporation and the Railway Company.

The Corporation have likewise made such representation to the Wembdon and Cannington Drainage Board, that they in their turn have applied to the Somerset Drainage Commissioners for an enlargement of their district, so as to include the South bank of the Durleigh Stream through which most of the mischief arises in connection with the flooding of the levels. I trust that early efforts will be made to put this bank in a proper state of repair.

NEW STREETS AND BUILDINGS.

During the last year 96 plans, affecting new streets and buildings, have received the consideration of the Health Committee. The various descriptions of buildings may be summarised as under :—

Bake-houses	...	...	...	...	2
Dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	85
New streets	...	...	...	...	1
Stables, sheds, &c.	...	...	...	..	6
Stores	...	..	...	...	2

SEWERS.

Additions to the main sewers have been made during the year in Colley Lane and Road Lane ; and before leaving this question of sewers it would be well to note that the Corporation have had the whole of the principal main sewers of the town opened out, the depths, sizes, and condition taken & recorded on the Ordnance Map of the Borough, so that a complete record of the old sewers of the town is now on hand.

WATER SUPPLY.

Arising from the various changes, caused by the death of the late Mr. James Hobbs, for many years foreman of the Highways Department of the Corporation, an Inspector has been appointed to devote his whole time to the various works required in connection with the water supply to the town, with the result that the excessive supply is somewhat reduced, although not so much as I should like to see it.

RAINFALL.

I append to my report two interesting tables of the rainfall during the past year at both Asbford and Bridgwater. For the Bridgwater table I am indebted to Mr. Hy. Corder, to whom my best thanks are due.

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS PARR,

Assoc: M.I.C.E.

RAINFALL IN 1895.

Month.	ASHFORD.				BRIDGWATER.			
	Total Depth.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		No. of Days on which $\cdot 01$ or more fell.	Total Depth.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		No. of days on which $\cdot 01$ or more fell.
	Inches	Depth.	Date.		Inches.	Depth.	Date.	
January ...	3·52	·77	20	18	3·22	·80	19	18
February ...	·12	·11	25	2	·16	·10	25	3
March ..	2·28	·58	28	16	2·12	·54	27	15
April ...	2·10	·76	25	12	1·83	·79	24	11
May ...	·27	·20	2	2	·35	·18	31	2
June ..	1·11	·44	1	5	1·18	·54	1	6
July ..	1·94	49	24	15	2·23	·53	23	16
August ...	2·47	·44	4	15	3·02	·54	7	14
September ...	1·01	·74	7	6	1·70	·72	6	5
October ...	4·23	·52	6	18	3·75	·49	1	17
November ...	5·14	·84	11	24	5·41	·76	5	19
December ...	3·53	·63	27	20	3·14	·49	5	22
Total	27·72	·84	Nov. 11	153	28·11	·80	Jan. 19	148

Table shewing Birth & Death Rate, Infantine Mortality, and Zymotic Death Rate.

Birth Rate per 1000 Population.	Death Rate per 1000 Population	Infant Mortality.		Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.	
		Per 1000 Deaths.	Per 1000 Births.	Per 1000 Population	Per 1000 Deaths.
1881 } 32·9	16·03	207·9	101·01	1·03	64·3
1891 } 33·2	14·9	171·3	95·2	0·39	21·3
1891 } 33·0	16·5	180·1	117·7	0·31	14·7

The Report of your Inspector contains much valuable information, and suggestions as to the still further improvement of the Sanitary condition of the Borough. I am perfectly at one with him that some very drastic measure is required, and that without delay, to sweep away from our midst these dens where filth abounds, and within the atmosphere of which, should the spark of contagion enter, it would find every opportunity to spread.

The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act has been to us of much service, and its provisions duly carried out. 10 cases of Erysipelas were notified, and 2 of Diphtheria—a very satisfactory comparison with that of previous years.

I have, in my Report of 1894, alluded to the valuable services rendered by the District Nurses. I am confident, from what I have seen and heard, they contribute largely, in their daily visits among the sick poor, in assisting them to observe greater methods of cleanliness and careful attention to the general rules whereby health is secured.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS J. C. PARSONS.

BIRTHS IN THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT

During the Year 1895.

	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total.
BRIDGWATER	117	115	91	93	416
	Rate per 1000.....33'0.				

TABLE SHEWING THE VARIOUS CAUSES AND NUMBER OF DEATHS IN EACH MONTH.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
Scarlatina ..	3	7	7	3			1		2	1	3	1	1
Diarrhoea ..	..	..	..	..	2			1	1			1	27
Bronchitis ..	..	..	2	1	2		3		1	1	1	1	8
Pneumonia ..	..	..	1	2	2			2	1	1	1	1	17
Phthisis ..	..	2	1			5		4	2	5	2	1	33
Heart Disease ..	3	3	3		3	1	2	2	2	1		2	12
Apoplexy and Paralysis ..	..	2		1	3				1		1	1	5
Convulsions ..	1			1									
Renal and Bladder Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Acute Rheumatism ..	..	..	1	1	2	2	1	1		1		1	8
Cancer ..	..	..	..	1	1	2			1	1	4	1	12
Debility from Birth ..	..	..	..	1	1	2	6		1	1	5	1	63
Old Age ..	9	9	6	11	2	3		2	5	7	2	2	13
Accidents ..	2	1		1		1				2			2
Diphtheria ..	1									1			
	21	24	20	22	15	14	13	12	13	20	18	11	203

ANALYSIS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTERED IN BRIDGWATER DURING THE YEAR 1895.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
Total Births ..	37	47	33	41	40	34	42	25	24	21	39	33	416
Total Deaths ..	22	21	25	21	17	19	12	13	15	16	20	8	209
Died aged 65 and upwards ..	12	9	11	9	6	9	4	6	9	8	6	3	89
Under 1 year ..	4	5	6	4	4	4	2		4	3	7	1	44
Of Fever ..													
Of Scarlatina ..													
Whooping Cough ..											1		1
Diarrhœa ..										1			1
Diphtheria ..	1									1			2
Violence ..	2										2		5
Other causes ..	19	21	25	1	17	19	12	13	15	14	17	8	200
Inquest cases ..	3	1	1	1	1		1	1			2	1	12
In Public Institutions ..													
Bridgwater Infirmary ..		2	2		2	1	2	3	1	5	1	2	21
Union Hospital ..	6	7	4	5	2		3		3	4	5	3	42

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1895, in the Bridgwater Urban Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases. Ages and Localities.

Registration District.	Population at all ages.	Mortality from subjoined causes, at subjoined ages.						Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five years of age.										
		At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards		Diphtheria	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Phtthis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.
WESTERN	Census 1891.	113	21	8	4	6	34	40					9			2	18	29
									1			9	7	19		2	46	84
EASTERN		96	24	6	3	5	28	30			1		7				22	30
												5	12	8		1	38	66
WORKHOUSE		42	4	1	—	—	6	31					1		2		5	5
																1	33	37
INFIRMARY ...		21	—	1	5	3	10	2				2		4		6	8	20
TOTALS...	12600	272	49	16	12	14	78	103	2	1	1	17	16	33		10	125	207

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

LIMITS OF JURISDICTION:—So much of the Customs Port of Bridgwater as lies to the southward of, or within an imaginary straight line drawn from the most northerly point of Stert Point to the Lower Light-house, in the parish of Burnham.

Number and Tonnage of Vessels belonging to the Port of Bridgwater, for the year 1895:—

	1894.	1895.
No. of Sailing Vessels	89	92
Tonnage of the same	5638 tons	6519 tons
No. of Steam Vessels	9	9
Tonnage of the same	423	416

Number and Tonnage of Sailing and Steam Vessels which entered Bridgwater River for trading purposes:—

	1894.	1895.
No. of Sailing and Steam Vessels	2398	2348
Amount of Tonnage	150178	145801

I am afraid that little improvement has taken place in the trade of the Port since my last report.

Five deaths were registered amongst Sailors—1 Senile Decay, 1 found Drowned, and 3 from Heart Disease.

The Sanitary Inspection for the year is contained in the Inspector's Report.

We are to be congratulated in at last having obtained a suitable Mooring Station near the Flat Holm—thus the difficulty in carrying out Article 6, Cholera Order (August 28th, 1890), will be removed.

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS J. C. PARSONS.

TOWN HALL, BRIDGWATER,

January 25th, 1896.

F. J. C. PARSONS, Esq., Medical Officer of Health.

Dear Sir,

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

I have the honour to submit the yearly Report, dealing with the Sanitary work of this Authority for the year ending December 31st, 1895.

The systematic inspection of the vessels has been continued, and in all cases, except Coasting vessels, a visit is made by the Inspector immediately on the vessel arriving in port. The Coasting vessels are inspected occasionally as may be deemed requisite.

During the year, 206 inspections of vessels were reported to the Port Sanitary Authority, and out of the above number 28 instances of Sanitary defects were found to exist, and for which notice of abatement was served on the captain. I am glad to say that nearly all were put right while the vessels remained in this port. In case of any vessel leaving with Sanitary defects not made good, we at once communicate with the Sanitary Officer of the Port of Destination.

The Sanitary defects may be classified as follows :—

Bad Bilge Water	1
Defective Water Supply and Fittings (such as casks)	7
Defective Ventilation	4
Dirty W.C.	10
Damp Forecastle	1
Wet and dirty Forecastle	1
Dirty Forecastle	13
Stores in do.	1
Totals	<hr/> 38 <hr/>

No serious case of illness has been reported, and only one case of sudden death, which was afterwards proved to arise from natural causes.

Yours faithfully,

FRANCIS PARR.

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

During the past year the Rural Districts have well maintained that measure of good health which it has been my pleasure to record in previous annual reports.

Rarely have I known diseases of a preventible character so conspicuous by their absence; long-life appears more surely secured, and Infantine mortality possesses a most satisfactory comparison.

	1895.		1894.
Birth-rate, ..	25·3 per 1000 living	..	26·0
Death-rate, ..	14·8 „ „	..	13·5
Zymotic rate, ..	0·2 „ „	..	0·4
Infant Mortality, ..	87·1 per 1000 births	..	91·0

To compare the Statistics of the year with those of 1894—so exceptional in their favourable character—might lead to a false impression. It is right therefore that, before proceeding further, I should say that the average number of deaths occurring in the Rural Districts during the past 8 years was 295. This past year 296 were recorded, as against 270 in the preceding year. Of these 296 deaths, 171 occurred in the Western Division, and 125 in the Eastern, representing an annual rate of mortality of 14·8 in the entire district—16·0 in the Western and 13·4 in the Eastern per 1000, of the estimated population.

Phthisis caused 24 deaths—11 in the Western and 13 in the Eastern Division—no marked difference.

Pneumonia and Bronchitis occasioned 22 deaths in the Western Division and 25 in the Eastern.

In the Western Division 24 deaths resulted from Heart Disease, and in the Eastern 13.

Fourteen deaths were attributed to Injuries—the large number of 11 in the Western districts and 3 only in the Eastern.

From the chief Zymotic diseases 7 deaths only occurred, equivalent to the small rate of mortality of 0·2, as against 0·4 in 1894, and 0·98 in the Rural population of that year. Two only of these deaths were registered in the Western Division—1 from Whooping Cough and 1 from Diarrhœa. In the Eastern Division 5 deaths occurred—2 from Diphtheria, 2 from Whooping Cough, and 1 from Diarrhœa.

No less than 124 persons died aged 65 and upwards—74 in the Western and 50 in the Eastern Division—whilst 44 Children perished in their first year of age.

This small rate of mortality is a matter of much congratulation. Nothing approaching an epidemic has threatened us with its presence. If the few isolated cases of Zymotic disease have attempted to assert their baneful influence amongst us, quickly have the means at our disposal terminated their existence; and here I may well say how gladly all willingly help, and comply with the instructions we give to check and destroy the spread of these diseases.

As regards the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 13 cases of Scarlatina, 5 of Diphtheria, 1 of Typhoid Fever, 2 of Puerperal Fever, and 4 of Erysipelas were reported to me. A very small number in comparison with past years. Every care has been taken to prevent the spread of these cases, and that successfully.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To F. J. C. PARSONS, Esq.,

Medical Officer of Health for the Bridgwater Rural District Council.

Sir,

I herewith hand you my Report as Inspector of Nuisances and Assistant Surveyor for the Bridgwater Rural District Council for the year ending 31st day of December, 1895.

During the year I have issued the following Notices to abate the Nuisances hereinafter named.

- 4 For dilapidated Cottages, unfit for human habitation.
- 5 For Cottages overcrowded.
- 10 For Cottages requiring repairing, cleansing and whitelimeing.
- 4 For dangerous Buildings.
- 36 For Drains requiring repairing and cleansing.
- 6 For new Drains to be constructed.
- 32 For Drains to be properly trapped with stone-ware gully traps
- 3 For Privies without cesspits.
- 22 For Privies and Cesspits requiring cleansing and repairing.
- 23 For Closets requiring pans and traps.
- 3 For Privies requiring to be re-built.
- 4 For new Privies to be erected to provide proper accommodation
- 2 For Cattle being kept in close proximity to dwelling-houses.
- 5 For Houses having no supply of drinking water.

Nearly all these Notices have been complied with by Owner or Occupier.

During the year I have taken 45 samples of Water, and handed same to you for analysis; of these samples of Water 12 were returned as impure and unfit for human consumption. Notices were served on the owners to provide a supply of pure water; this has been done by them as far as possible, by properly cleansing the wells and protecting the same.

Many more minor nuisances have been abated by the owners and occupiers by calling their attention to them, without notices.

The North Petherton School Board has had the whole of the closets connected with the Board Schools reconstructed with glazed stone-ware socket pipes, and the drains properly ventilated. This work has been done to my satisfaction.

The Rev. W. Arnold has had all new glazed stone-ware socket pipe drains laid in connection with the Vicarage House at Boroughbridge, under my instructions and to my satisfaction.

On the 15th May I served a notice on Edwin Groves, of Catcott Burtle, to abate a nuisance, caused by him in allowing a cottage at Catcott Burtle to be overcrowded, and in such a dilapidated state as to be unfit for human habitation. Groves not having complied with the notice, I was instructed by the District Council to obtain a summons against him. On the 31st instant the case was heard before the Magistrates at the Bridgwater Petty Sessions. The Magistrates made an order on Groves to comply with the notice, served on him on the 15th May, within 14 days and pay costs.

INFRINGEMENT OF THE BYE-LAWS.

I found on going to Puriton, on the 24th September, Mr. George Smith had commenced building 3 cottages at Puriton, without submitting plans to the District Council, as required by Bye-law 91. On the 23rd October the Council gave me instructions to obtain a summons against Smith. On the 31st instant the case was heard before the Magistrates at the Bridgwater Petty Sessions—Smith was fined £1 and 5s. costs.

There are 72 Cowkeepers, Dairymen & Purveyors of Milk registered in the district. I have visited the greater portion of them during the year. I found the cowsheds and dairies kept to my satisfaction.

During the year I have had several of the main sewers cleansed and repaired.

During the year there has been a section of new 6 and 9 inch glazed stone-ware socket pipe drain laid in the village of Middlezoy, at a cost of £63 18s. 7d.

Lengthening a sewer culvert at Huntspill, at a cost £18 10s. 0d.

New pump to Parish well at Huntspill, at a cost of £4 7s. 6d.

New drains and settling tank at Dunball, in the Parish of Chilton Trinity, at a cost of £59 13s. 6d.

Several other main drains have been cleansed and repaired during the year.

During the year a slaughter-house and knacker's shop has been built by Mr. S. Bricknell, at Dunwear, at a distance of at least 400 yards from any dwelling-house or main road. The whole of the building was erected in accordance with plans laid before the District Council, and to my satisfaction. A knacker's license was granted to Mr. S. Bricknell.

I find the Bye-laws are of great importance in the construction of new buildings and drainage in the several parishes in the district where they are compulsory, viz.:—Bridgwater, Cannington, Huntspill, Middlezoy, Nether Stowey, North Petherton, Othery, Puriton, Wembdon, and Weston-zoyland. These Bye-laws ought to be adopted for the erection of dwelling

houses and drainage throughout the whole of the district, as they would add greatly to the comfort of the houses by having proper damp courses, 9 in. party walls and proper drainage.

Diphtheria made its appearance at Catcott in August, in one family, which was the cause of 2 deaths. I thoroughly disinfected the house, bedding and clothes, and there was no further spread of the complaint in that district.

I find the whole district for the past year has had less cases of Scarlatina than for the past 3 or 4 years, or since the adoption of the Notification Act. There have been a few isolated cases of a mild form; these cases have been thoroughly disinfected & not allowed, if possible, to spread. I recommend that all schools, during the children's holidays, should be thoroughly fumigated and disinfected. This would be a step toward stamping out Scarlatina.

WATER SUPPLY AT DUNWEAR, SOMERSET BRIDGE & DUNBALL.

I was in hopes in writing my last report to have been able to say these places had been supplied with water before now.

There have been several Committee meetings held jointly, consisting of members of the District Council and Parish Council, the Clerk to the District Council, and myself, for the purpose of making arrangements, if possible, to raise the money to take the water around Dunwear from the Corporation's main water pipe in Bridgwater, which I estimate would cost nearly £600. No terms have been arrived at as yet.

The whole of these 3 districts are badly in want of pure water for drinking purposes, as there is no good drinking water in them, and from the nature of the soil I believe it impossible to get any unless supplied from the Corporation Water Works.

I remain, yours obediently,

WILLIAM COLES,

Inspector of Nuisances and Assistant Surveyor.

1, Thornbury Villa, Wembdon.

Much good work has been effected by your Inspector during the past year. Such is clearly laid out in his report.

I regret indeed that the efforts we have made, and which in previous reports I have so strongly drawn attention to, viz:—the Extension of the Water distribution in the Districts, have met with such ill success. The expense no doubt is great; but well will it be repaid if good health can and most assuredly be secured. I am much afraid that, costly as it may appear to-day, each year will add still further to that cost.

The villages of Cannington and Spaxton should not rest longer satisfied with their present supply, so prone to contamination, and the expense would not be great.

In the case of Dunwear, I cannot help thinking that £600 is somewhat in excess of what the actual cost would be.

You obedient Servant,

FRANCIS J. C. PARSONS.

BIRTHS IN THE RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY

During the Year 1895.

	1st qr.	2nd qr.	3rd qr.	4th qr.	Total	Rate per 1000	
						1895.	1894.
Stowey ..	16	32	20	13	81	18·8	22·4
North Petherton	36	24	33	30	123	24·6	26·2
Middlezoy ..	11	18	10	19	58	31·7	23·0
Huntspill ..	28	28	22	25	103	23·4	30·0
Polden Hill	24	19	17	21	81	26·5	26·5
Durleigh ..	—	1	—	1	2	20·8	10·4
Wembdon ..	17	5	7	9	38	31·0	26·8
Chilton Trinity	3	1	1	—	5	35·4	28·3
Chedzoy ..	4	2	4	4	14	44·4	28·5
						505	25·3
						25·3	26·6

Table shewing Birth & Death Rate, Infantine Mortality, and Zymotic Death Rate.

	Birth Rate per 1000 Population.	Death Rate per 1000 Population	Infant Mortality.		Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.	
			Per 1000 Deaths.	Per 1000 Births.	Per 1000 Population	Per 1000 Deaths.
1893 }	24·8	15·7	153·3	96·7	0·9	60·7
1894 }	26·0	13·5	177·7	91·0	0·4	33·3
1895 }	25·3	14·8	148·6	87·1	0·2	23·6

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1895, in the Bridgwater Rural Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Registration District.	Population at all ages.		Mortality from subjoined causes, at subjoined ages.								Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five years of age.									
	Census 1891.		At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards		Diphtheria	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.	
STOWEY	4229	67	8	1	2	4	17	35	Under 5 5 upwards					8	1	11		3	8	9
PETHERTON ...	4995	73	15	7		3	19	29	Under 5 5 upwards	1	1			1	5	10		2	31	58
DURLEIGH.....	96	3	1				2		Under 5 5 upwards					1	7			4	29	51
WEMBODN	1193	28	5	3		1	9	10	Under 5 5 upwards					2	3	1	2		5	8
CHILTON TRINITY	141								Under 5 5 upwards										15	20
MIDDLEZOY ..	1826	26	3	1		1	9	12	Under 5 5 upwards					4	4	5		1	3	4
HUNTSPELL.....	4386	35	3	2	3	5	8	14	Under 5 5 upwards					3	3	1		2	8	22
POLDEN HILL	3065	58	8	6	3		20	21	Under 5 5 upwards	1	1	1	1	1	4	5		1	19	30
CHEDZOY	315	6	1		1		1	3	Under 5 5 upwards	1	1			5	8	5		1	24	44
TOTALS ..		296	44	20	9	14	85	124	Under 5 5 upwards	1	3	2		1	16	2		3	38	64
										1				23	31	37		11	129	232

Deaths in the Bridgwater Rural Sanitary Authority.

During the Year, 1895.

1895. DISTRICT.	PARISHES.	Population.	Total Deaths from all Diseases.	Rate per 1000.	Total Deaths at ages 60, and above.	Total Deaths at ages 1 year and under.	Diphtheria.	Diarrhoea.	Plithisis	Pneumonia.	Bronchitis.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	Rheumatism
WESTERN. — STOWEY.	Aisholt	74	2	18.0	2	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..
	Over Stowey	422	7	16.5	4	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..
	Nether Stowey	634	12	18.9	9	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..
	Fiddington	249	7	28.1	5	1	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	..
	Stockland Bristol	122	2	16.3	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
	Otterhampton	478	5	10.4	2	1	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..
	Cannington	1147	24	20.9	10	3	..	..	5	..	1	3	..	..
	Edstock and Bere	.....	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Charlinch	191	2	10.4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Spaxton	912	6	6.5	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
WESTERN. — PETHERTON.		4299	67	15.8	38	8			8	1	5	11	3	
	Ennore	285	2	7.01	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Goathurst	253	3	11.8	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	..
	Broomfield	384	8	20.8	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Thurloxton	210	4	19.4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
	St. Michael Church	26	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	North Petherton (pt)	3552	56	15.7	30	13	..	..	1	3	6	8	5	..
	Lyng	285	3	10.5	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..
		4995	76	15.2	41	18		1	1	3	11	11	6	
	Durleigh	96	3	31.2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
BRIDGWATER. Western part.	Wembdon	1193	28	23.1	13	6	..	..	2	..	4	2	..	..
	Chilton Trinity	141	..	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		1430	31	21.6	13	7			2		4	3		
		10654	174	16.3	92	33		1	11	4	20	20	9	
	TOTAL WESTERN													
EASTERN. — MIDDLEZOY.	Othery	575	6	10.4	3	1	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	..
	Middlezoy	592	7	11.8	5	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..
	Westonzoyland	659	10	15.1	5	1	..	..	2	1	..	2	1	..
		1826	23	12.5	13	3			4	2		4	2	
	Bawdrip	340	6	17.6	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Puriton	733	4	5.4	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
	Pawlett	483	3	6.2	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
	Huntspill	2004	15	7.4	7	..	..	..	..	1	5	1	1	1
	Woolavington	293	3	10.2	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
	Cossington	218	4	18.0	2	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
HUNTSPILL. — POLDEN HILL.	Chedzoy, (East)	315	6	16.0	3	1	..	..	1	..	1	2	..	..
		4386	41	9.3	19	4			3	1	8	3	2	1
	Moorlinch	249	6	28.1	3	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..
	Chilton Polden	363	8	22.0	7	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	..	..
	Stawell	167	5	29.9	3	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	..
	Sutton Mallett	119	1	8.4	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
	Edington	482	8	15.5	3	2	..	..	1	2	..	1	..	..
	Catcott Burtle	559	12	21.4	3	..	2	..	1	2	2	..	..	..
	Shapwick (part of)	352	5	14.1	4	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
	Greinton	108	3	27.7	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL EASTERN	Ashcott	656	10	15.0	5	2	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..
		3055	58	18.9	29	8	2	1	6	7	5	5	1	
		9267	122	13.1	61	15	2	1	13	10	13	12	5	1

Francis Jno. C. Parsons.

